claims pto

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1. A drug preparation order system comprising a control unit for carrying out logic operations and outputting control signals based on externally inputted drug preparation data including a patient name or a patient code, drug codes, taking directions and dosage, and a plurality of printers connected to said control unit for printing on drug preparation order sheets in response to the control signals, said control unit having a data storage portion for storing basic data about drug codes including drug type codes, patient name and taking directions, and a printer setting portion for setting the correlation between the drug type codes and the printer, whereby reading drug type codes of drugs necessary for a patient from among the drug preparation data inputted in said data storage portion, setting data of the printer corresponding to the drug type codes by said printer setting portion, and printing on a drug preparation order sheet data including the patient name and the prescribed drug names by the printer in the set data.

2. The system of claim 1 wherein a communication means is connected to said control unit, wherein a plurality of trays having communication means that respond to said communication means are combined as a system, each of said

trays having a display portion, and wherein the drug preparation order data sent from said control unit through said communication means are displayed on said display portion of each of said trays.

3. The system of claim 2 wherein in order to put drugs in a plurality of trays according to the drug types and the number of days for which the drugs are to be prescribed, the drugs are assigned to said plurality of trays.

4. The system of claim 2 ~~or 3~~ wherein a drug preparation order sheet printed by said printers contain information indicating that drugs are put in a plurality of trays.

5. The system of ~~any of claims 2-4~~ claim 2 wherein when drug preparation order data are transmitted by said communication means, identification information is transmitted to said trays to distinguish said trays from each other.

6. The system of ~~any of claims 2-5~~ claim 2 wherein when drug preparation order data are transmitted by said communication means, information on whether or not taking guidance is necessary is transmitted.

7. The system of claim ~~1~~ 2 wherein a drug preparation

order sheet printed by said printers contain information indicating that drugs are put in a plurality of trays.

8. The system of claim 3 wherein when drug preparation order data are transmitted by said communication means, identification information is transmitted to said trays to distinguish said trays from each other.

9. The system of claim 4 wherein when drug preparation order data are transmitted by said communication means, identification information is transmitted to said trays to distinguish said trays from each other.

10. The system of claim 3 wherein when drug preparation order data are transmitted by said communication means, information on whether or not taking guidance is necessary is transmitted.

11. The system of claim 4 wherein when drug preparation order data are transmitted by said communication means, information on whether or not taking guidance is necessary is transmitted.

12. The system of claim 5 wherein when drug preparation order data are transmitted by said communication means, information on whether or not taking guidance is necessary is transmitted.

13. (New) A drug preparation order system comprising:

a control unit operable to carry out logic operations and to output control signals based on drug preparation data, said control unit comprising

a data storage portion operable to store a first set of data, the first set of data corresponding to the drug preparation data, and

a printer setting portion;

a monitor operable to display a second set of data, the second set of data corresponding to the drug preparation data;

an input device operable to enable a user to enter the first set of data into said control unit; and

a plurality of printers connected to said control unit, said plurality of printers operable to print on drug preparation order sheets in response to the control signals,

wherein said printer setting portion is operable to store a third set of data, the third set of data corresponding to a correlation between the drug preparation data and said plurality of printers.

wherein said monitor is operable to display a fourth set of data, said fourth set of data corresponding to a correlation between the drug preparation data and the third set of data, and

wherein said input device is operable to enable the user to modify any one of the first set of data and the third set of data by way of modifying any one of the second set of data and the fourth set of data.

14. (New) The system of claim 13, wherein the drug preparation data includes data corresponding to a patient name, a patient code, a drug code, taking directions, and dosages.

15. (New) The system of claim 13, further comprising:

a first type of communicator connected to said control unit, said first type of communicator being operable to transmit drug preparation order data provided by said control unit,

a plurality of trays, each having a second type of communicator, said plurality of trays and said control unit are combined as a system,

wherein each of said second type of communicators is operable to communicate with said first type of communicator,

wherein each of said trays has a display portion, and

wherein said display portions are operable to display the drug preparation order data sent from said control unit by said first type of communicator.

16. (New) The system of claim 15, wherein said printers are operable to print on a drug preparation order sheet, information indicating whether drugs have been put into a plurality of trays.

17. (New) The system of claim 16, wherein said control unit is operable to transmit identification information to said trays, when drug preparation order data is transmitted by said first type of communicator.

18. (New) The system of claim 16, wherein said control unit is operable to transmit information on whether guidance is necessary, when drug preparation order data is transmitted by said first type of communicator.

19. (New) The system of claim 15, wherein said control unit is operable to transmit identification information to said trays, when drug preparation order data is transmitted by said first type of communicator.

20.(New) The system of claim 19, wherein said control unit is operable to transmit information on whether guidance is necessary, when drug preparation order data is transmitted by said first type of communicator.

21. (New) The system of claim 15, wherein said control unit is operable to transmit information on whether guidance is necessary, when drug preparation order data is transmitted by said first type of communicator.

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22. (New) The system of claim 15, wherein in order to put drugs in a plurality of trays according to the drug types and the number of days for which the drugs are to be prescribed, the drugs can be assigned to said plurality of trays.

23. (New) The system of claim 22, wherein said printers are operable to print on a drug preparation order sheet, information indicating whether drugs have been put into a plurality of trays

24. (New) The system of claim 22, wherein said control unit is operable to transmit identification information to said trays, when drug preparation order data is transmitted by said first type of communicator.

25. The system of claim 22, wherein said control unit is operable to transmit information on whether guidance is necessary, when drug preparation order data is transmitted by said first type of communicator.

26. (Currently Amended) A drug preparation order system for use with a drug preparation order sheet, said system comprising:

a control unit for carrying out logic operations and outputting control signals;

a display device connected to said control unit; and

a plurality of printers connected to said control unit,

said control unit comprising:

a memory for storing a plurality of printer codes each corresponding to one of said plurality of printers, a plurality of drug type codes, and a printer setting file defining a correlation between the drug type codes and the printer codes;

an input device through which external data can be entered into said memory, said external data comprising a plurality of sets of data, each set comprising drug data;

correlating means for correlating each of the plurality of sets of data with one of the drug type codes;

display means for displaying said correlation between the drug type codes and the printer codes on said display device;

altering means for altering said correlation between the drug type codes and the printer codes in response to a signal entered through said input device; and

printer activating means for, in response to a command to print one of the plurality of sets of data, activating one of said printers that corresponds to one of the printer codes corresponding, in accordance with said printer setting file, to one of said drug type codes which is correlated by said correlating means with said one of the plurality of sets of data to print said one of the plurality of sets of data on a drug preparation sheet.

27. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 26, further comprising:

a first type of communicator connected to said control unit, said first type of communicator being operable to transmit drug preparation order data provided by said control unit,

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a plurality of trays, each having a second type of communicator, said plurality of trays and said control unit being combined as a system,

wherein each of said second type of communicators is operable to communicate with said first type of communicator,

wherein each of said trays has a display portion, and

wherein said display portions are operable to display the drug data.

28. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 27, wherein said printers are operable to print on a drug preparation order sheet, information indicating whether drugs have been put into one of said plurality of trays,

wherein said control unit is operable to transmit identification information to said trays when drug data is transmitted by said first type of communicator, and

wherein said control unit is operable to transmit information on whether guidance is necessary when drug data is transmitted by said first type of communicator.

29. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 27, wherein said control unit is operable to transmit identification information to said trays when drug data is transmitted by said first type of communicator, and

wherein said control unit is operable to transmit information on whether guidance is necessary when drug data is transmitted by said first type of communicator.

30. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 27, wherein said control unit is operable to transmit information on whether guidance is necessary when drug data is transmitted by said first type of communicator.

31. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 27, wherein in order to put drugs into said plurality of trays according to drug types and a number of days for which the drugs are to be prescribed, the drugs can be assigned to said plurality of trays,

wherein said printers are operable to print on a drug preparation order sheet, information indicating whether drugs have been put into a plurality of trays,

wherein said control unit is operable to transmit identification information to said trays, when drug data is transmitted by said first type of communicator, and

wherein said control unit is operable to transmit information on whether guidance is necessary, when drug data is transmitted by said first type of communicator.